TRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in the development of hill areas, the Central Government is making a two—pronged effort. Firstly, hill areas which are co-extensive with the boundaries of the States are treated as Special Category States. These states derive two direct advantages from the formula used for distribution of central assistance: (a) after setting apart funds, required for externally aided

Elimination of Poverty in the Country

1661. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of families in the country living below the poverty line during the past three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the effect of various poverty alleviation schemes to uplift the people living below the poverty line in the country;

(c) whether any evaluation has been done on the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes; and

(d) by which year Government are intending to eliminate poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from large surveys of consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line for the last three years are not available. The estimates

of poverty are also not available at district level since the consumer expenditure data collected by the NSSO are not stratified at district level. According to latest estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line, available for the year 1993-94 based on the consumer expenditure survey data of 50th Round, 35.97 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 1993-94, although the percentage of poverty is measured on the basis of persons, it is possible to get an approximate estimate of families below the poverty line by using the average household size. Using the household size of the poor as 5.458 in rural areas and 5.386 in urban areas, as derived from the NSS consumer expenditure survey of 1993-94, the above percentage of persons correspond to 31.5 per cent of families.

(b) and (c) The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occurs from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various antipoverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These programmes are continuously reviewed in order to improve their efficacy.

It is not possible to isolate the impact of each of these programmes on the income generation of the poor, and hence on the percentage of people living below the poverty line. However, as a result of the joint impact of these two factors, there has been a continuous reduction in the percentage of people living below the poverty line in the country since 1977-78 as can be seen from the table below.

Percentage of Poor in total Population

1977-78	51.3%
1983-84	44.5%
1987-88	38.9%
1993-94	36.0%

(d) There is no time limit. However, in the Ninth Five Year Plan exercises, the Planning Commission, under a set of assumptions, has projected the national poverty ratio as 17.98% in 2001-02, 9.53% in 2006-07 and 4.37% in 2011-12.